

Week of February 26 - The Power of Prayer | Small Group Lesson 17

Connect

An expression commonly spoken is, “I’m only human.” Generally this means we have weaknesses and vulnerabilities like everyone else. Should a believer use this expression? Would you? Why or why not?

Verses - James 5:13-18 (CSB)

13 Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing praises. 14 Is anyone among you sick? He should call for the elders of the church, and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 The prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up; if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. 17 Elijah was a human being as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the land. 18 Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its fruit.

Study

1. Read James 1:2-8. What common themes or phrases match our text for today? What matches in regards to how to behave in trials, and how we should ask?

2. What dual truth is taught by James in v.15? (John 3:16) How does forgiving one another affect our righteousness? (Matthew 6:14-15)

☕ **DISCUSS:** What would you say is more powerful, prayer or oil? Which is more powerful, anointing in the name of the Lord or not? Why? (v.15) Do you verbally thank the Lord as you take medicine? What's the difference if you do or not?

🏃 **APPLY:** How do we remain faithful when asking in prayer for the "humanly impossible" situations? When do we "face reality? What kind of heart attitude should we have in such prayer? (Matthew 7:11; Mark 9:23; Jeremiah 32:17)

Share

In vv.17-18, James refers to events recorded in 1 Kings 17-18 of a drought which occurred after Elijah prayed for almost 3 years. What point do you think James is trying to make by remembering this particular miraculous story? What then is the role of God and what is the role of Elijah (or any prophet)?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for the Lord to help us to be faithful Christians.
- Would you like to share your love and hope in the Lord with our TBC Kids? Contact: sumiko@tokyobaptist.org